

"Doing
the Truth in
Charity"

The Ascent

"And the Word
was made
flesh."

VOL. 8 NO. 3

ROSARY HILL COLLEGE, BUFFALO, N. Y.



DECEMBER 14, 1956



My dear Students,

The Christmas greeting of the College for the year 1956 depicts the scene of our Holy Father Saint Francis kneeling in adoration before the Christ Child. I would like to recall the story of this scene for you because the message that it bears is perhaps needed more today than it was in the year 1223.

Saint Francis, from the time of his spiritual conversion, devoted all his efforts toward building a kingdom for eternity. His love for God and Lady Poverty led him to teach all peoples the worthlessness of the things of time and the lasting value of the gifts of the spirit. Francis, the once gay Troubadour who sang of worldly love, now devoted his talents to God through all His creatures and sang songs of an eternal love.

People listened to Francis and his message and the impact of his spirit was felt in all Italy. However, once he seemingly stared at failure in his effort to bring God's message to souls. In Greccio, a small town in Italy, the people were immersed in their own self-seeking. In spite of Francis' having set up a Church in their midst, their souls remained hard and unmoved.

The solution to this problem came with the advent season of 1223. Francis reasoned that the Bethlehem scene set up in a cave in the forest of Greccio would bring the warmth of the Infant Christ to these people to stir the smoldering embers of love in their hearts.

With the Holy Father's permission and the help of a friend, Giovanni, Francis had a replica of the crib scene complete by Christmas Eve. When the peasants saw, the power of grace moved them and they were ready for Francis' message.

Long after the last peasant had left the forest, Francis remained lost in contemplation of Christ in the manger. His friend, Giovanni, returned home only to dream of the scene he had seen. However, the Infant of his dream was dead but came to life as Francis bent above him. The dead child, Francis later told Giovanni, was the symbol of the sleeping Christ in the hearts of the people, now awakened to new life, and kindling their souls and lives with His love.

This Christmas of 1956 finds the world again in a state of restlessness brought about by the selfishness of individuals and nations. In fact, it sees many of your fellow students of foreign lands victims of the hatred and injustice resulting from this selfishness. Let us join Francis at the crib to pray for these victims of violence that soon their persecutors, heeding the message of the love of the Infant Christ, may be moved to receive the peace and love of God.

"May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May He turn His countenance toward you and give you peace."

Cordially,

Sister M. Angela, O.S.F.

Students Unite In Projects To Aid Hungarian Crisis

In cooperation with the Catholic colleges of the nation for the relief of the Hungarian people, a clothing drive was held on Rosary Hill's campus. This drive started Dec. 4 and will end today. The NFCCS and CURA committees on campus are sponsoring the drive.

At a student assembly on Dec. 7, a collection was taken up for the Hungarian people. The money collected was combined with collections taken at D'Youville, Canisius, Niagara, Buffalo State Teachers, Bonaventure, and the University of Buffalo.

A day of continual prayer was also offered for the Hungarian youth. On Dec. 7 the rosary was continually said after morning Mass until 4 p.m.

A special Mass had been celebrated for the students of Hungary on the afternoon of Nov. 20.

Rev. Stephen Gerencser, a native of Hungary and professor of philosophy at Rosary Hill, celebrated the Mass. Father spoke on the sacrifices that the Hungarian youth have made. The most pertinent points of Father's text were:

"... The University students of Budapest were the backbone of this startling revolution — revolution against reactionary and inhuman Communism.

Those University students, a large number of them dead or deported, fulfilled the highest vocation of any university student: *To be the living conscience of the nation.*

Plans Set For Carnival Nite

Building Fund chairman Sue Formals has announced that "Carnival Nite" will take place on Feb. 21.

The event will follow the same pattern as last year, in which each class and club on campus ran one profit making booth. The total amount made last year was approximately \$900.00.

Ellen Klausman is co-chairman and Julie Brown will be in charge of tickets.

The Ascent on behalf of the entire student body extends sincerest sympathy to Eileen Wolf on the death of her father.

Advisors Plan Christmas Tea

The traditional Faculty Tea which always ends the pre-holiday activities on campus, took place this afternoon in the social room of Marian Library.

This year the event was planned by the class advisors. The social room took on a warm, holiday atmosphere. A giant Christmas tree dominated the center while branches of holly carried out the Christmas theme throughout the room.

Members of the Board of Trustees and the Administration greeted each student. Representatives from each class provided the entertainment.

The event was ended with the distribution of gifts and the sincere exchange of best wishes for a blessed and grace-filled Christmas Season.



Cotillion committee, Martha J. Buchheit, Mary P. Kennedy, Marion Bermingham, and Joanne Coppola work on Cotillion Poster.

Swish and Sway In Formal Bliss At Traditional Christmas Dance

"Swish" is the word to describe the 1956 version of the Christmas Cotillion, according to chairman, Martha Jane Buchheit.

The annual senior dance will be held in the Mary Seaton Room of Kleinhans Music Hall, Sunday, Dec. 30, and will feature the danceable rhythms of Max Miller's orchestra.

This year, tables will be set up on the dance floor and may be reserved by groups. Special invitations have been issued to alumnae of the College and to parents and members of the senior class.

Gay Christmas decorations will bedeck Kleinhans; however,

for further details we will have to wait until Dec. 30.

Mary Paul Kennedy, as senior class president, is honorary chairman of the dance.

Promotion for the dance has been capably handled by Evie Cappellini, through her eye-catching displays. Mimi Bermingham and Celine Cooley are in charge of programs and patrons: Barbara Biondolillo, newspaper publicity; Joanne Callahan, tickets; and Mary Manzella, decorations.

Tickets for the Cotillion, \$4.80 a couple, may be purchased on campus from seniors or at the door the night of the dance.



Taking part in the observance of the Advent Season, students pause for a few minutes of hymn and prayer around the Advent Wreath in Marian Library.

Editorial

The Greatest Gift Given

Many things have been said regarding Christmas and said again in different ways. It is a time of joy and fellowship. There is a "glowiness" about life with which we become infected, and hustle and bustle become a part of the game.

The spirit of the time is universal. It is universal because there is rubbing off on everyone of the way of life going on about us. We hum along to carols, decorate Christmas trees with bright ornaments, wrap gifts, send cards, and do many things which are all in the "spirit" of the time. Yet, although the feeling we have about this season is basically the same to all of us, it is still personal. So personal and individual in fact that it is almost sacred.

This feeling towards Christmas, however, is only the icing on the cake. The true meaning of Christmas abides in Christ. We give gifts because it is our trite way of commemorating the event when the greatest Gift was given nineteen hundred and fifty-six years ago—the Gift of God the Father to His created people.

The Man Who Sold Christmas

By JOAN DONOGHUE

"Give me pleasure, give me security, give me all the comforts of life — a car, lots of money, good times, that's all I need," cries modern, sweeping materialism. And as it marches on, it penetrates and spreads its malignancy throughout the world. With the audacity of hell it snuffs out the flickering candles of truth and goodness—in its attempt to blanket the world in the darkness of hate and sin. In the past years it has even crept closer and closer in an attempt to dim the one undying light—the Holy Child, the Star, the Cave—the eternal love in the miracle of Christmas.

So prevalent is this movement in the world today that there seems only one glimmer of hope, a renewed trust in man upon the discovery of a modern Christmas story. It is a tale told in simplicity; it is the precious message that joy on earth can only be found at the crib.

The Man Who Sold Christmas by Rosalie Liberman is the story of a modern Friar, Brother Angelo and of the way he set out to sell the true meaning of Christmas, which is the very basis of the Christian concept of living.

Brother Angelo lived a care-

free happy life scrubbing floors and peeling potatoes in perfect harmony with his order. His simple way of life was interrupted when the voice of God told him that he must go to the city and bring Christmas back to the hearts of men.

The incidents in which Brother Angelo becomes involved are amusing and whimsical to a certain extent, but the bright picture they form is warm and wholesome—a welcome relief in a grim world of stock markets, factory sirens, and the shrill brassy laughter of a lost and unhappy people.

Of the 6,000,000 people of New York — bankers, cleaning women, artists, atheists, bus drivers, little boys, even the priests and brothers of his own order who are too much wrapped up in their worldly cares to be on intimate terms with God, Brother Angelo can only touch the hearts of four people. Yet as he does this, he keeps alive the happy truth of goodness—a goodness that soon penetrates to the reader who may desire a little of it for himself.

The book is a delightful reminder of the real meaning of Christmas.

Seniors Make Plans For 2nd Term Mixer

A senior-sponsored mixer will take place at the beginning of second semester at Rosary Hill.

The dance will be held in the social room of Marian Library, but all other plans to date are tentative.

Carol Kobza and Janet Robinson are co-chairmen, and will be assisted by the Intercollegiate Committee.

Card Display Features Originality and Beauty

Christmas cards from the art department, book store, and various printing companies have been on display in Marian Library.

Sue Moore, president of the art club, stated that the main object of the display was to offset the lack of artistic beauty in the ordinary Christmas card. "Our hope," said Sue, "is to gain new allies to rout the champions of the commonplace. These champions never cease endeavoring to drag everything down to their eminently respectable but dull level of mediocrity, minute and uninteresting finish and in general, 'pretty' idealism."

Concert and Dance Planned for Spring

Plans for a spring glee club concert and dance were formulated by members of the NFCCS Lake Erie Region at a regional CURA workshop held Dec. 9 at Rosary Hill. Proceeds from this concert will be used for relief activities of the College and University Relief Organization.

Attending the CURA workshop were NF delegates from D'Youville, Mercyhurst, Nazareth, Canisius, Gannon, and St. John Fisher Colleges and St. Bonaventure and Niagara Universities.

The Lake Erie Region of NFCCS also sponsored a magazine drive from Nov. 26 to Dec. 7. Arline O'Grady was chairman of the drive at Rosary Hill.

Concentration Erects Christmas Display

The art concentration has erected a 12' by 8' Christmas scene for the area in front of Marian Library.

A standing figure of Our Lady holding the Christ Child is set against a free form background of blue. Silver stars will highlight the setting.

Flanked by Christmas trees and illumined by spotlights, the scene provides a striking reminder to all passers-by of the Christmas message.

Freshmen and sophomores of the art concentration under the capable direction of Miss Pontes and Mr. Kuo have worked on the scene.

Inter-Club Seminar Planned for Sunday

The opportunity to discuss common problems within the various clubs on campus will be given club presidents this Sunday.

Through the combined efforts of Student Council and NSA, a leadership seminar will be held at Holy Family Clubrooms.

Club leaders will participate as well as class officers and committee chairmen who wish to attend.

Joseph Crangle will be guest speaker at the seminar.

The theme of the seminar "Vital Stimuli To Integrated Education" has been selected to give presidents of organizations an opportunity to evaluate their clubs and help improve them. Difficulties such as the problem of a group leader to interest members to participate in discussions, and how to stimulate members to carry out projects will be discussed.

S. Georgia Announces Mid-term Standings

Sister M. Georgia, O.S.F., Dean of Studies, announced that 43% of the student body is carrying a B average or above, and that only 18% of the student body has an average below their scholastic index.

These percentages have resulted in a median index of individual classes: seniors, 1.5; juniors, 1.6; sophomores, 1.0; freshmen, 1.1.

Students who are on the probationary list have an average below their scholastic index and will be curtailed in their participation in extra- and co-curricular activities.

Bi-Weekly Time Set For Club Meetings

A special hour comparable to the assembly period will be arranged during the second semester to facilitate club meeting times. At this time campus clubs and class meetings will be held alternately.

All campus clubs will be affected by this change except Third Order and Sodality which will conduct meetings after class hours.

The change of meetings times has been made so that students will be able to attend meetings conveniently.

The entire staff of The Ascent wishes each and every one a blessed and Merry Christmas and the best for '57.

Donation Finances Purchase For Foyer

A gift of \$500, donated to the Rosary Hill College Guild, will finance the purchase of a wood carving of St. Francis for the foyer of Rosary Hall.

The money is a gift of Frank C. Rast, of Glenwood Ave., Buffalo. Mr. Rast donated it to the Guild in memory of his wife, Emeline, who derived great pleasure from her membership in the organization before her death last December.

Mr. Rast is a partner in the J. J. Sindele Co., candy manufacturers, with which he has been associated since 1921.

Sodality Members Renew Consecration

At an annual ceremony which takes place before the feast of the Immaculate Conception, Rosary Hill sodalists renewed their acts of consecration in the Rosary Hall Chapel. The act was followed by Benediction.

This year the Sodality is contributing to the spirit of Christmas in both a material and spiritual way. Stockings were filled by Sodality members on the evening of Dec. 5. These stockings will be distributed to children of the negro missions in the South.

The sodalists also united their intentions at Mass and Communion with those of sodalists throughout the world. A gift will be given to the Holy Father of this spiritual offering in the form of a Papal Bouquet which is an annual gift sent to the reigning Pontiff.

Club Initiates Mass In Marian

Mass every Friday will now be said on campus. This privilege is due to the effort of the Catholic Action Club.

Father Joseph J. Weber, chaplain, will officiate. The first Mass was heard on Nov. 28 at 8 a. m. in the social room.

Catholic Action members participated in the Regional Workshop held on campus, Sunday, Dec. 9. The purpose of the Workshop was in accordance with the goal of CA which is familiarizing its members with the fundamental ideas and principals of Catholic Action.

Sister Justa Attends Rochester Meeting

Sister M. Justa, O.S.F. will attend the annual meeting of the Mathematical Association of America.

The meeting will be held at the University of Rochester and is in conjunction with the annual meetings of the American Mathematical Society and the Association for Symbolic Logic.

The Ascent

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Ancient Custom Revived at Mass

A Christmas Mass with an Offertory Procession formed a part of Rosary Hill's observance of the Christmas season. The Mass was celebrated today in the Marian Social Room.

The Offertory Procession, a custom of the early Church, was inaugurated at Rosary Hill last year. But while early Christians brought bread and wine to the altar during the Offertory of the Mass, Rosary Hill students filed up the aisle with donations of food, clothing, and toys for needy families.

The class presidents will distribute the completed Christmas baskets next week.

Library Pictures Are Featured in Magazine

Pictures of Marian Library were featured in the October issue of "The Catholic Library World."

The exterior of the library was pictured on the cover of the magazine, and the interior was described in detail. The dedication that was used for the opening of Marian Library was reprinted, and a picture of the main reading room was featured.

New Date Hikes Preparation Time

Senior graduation day has been changed to Friday, June 7.

The extension of time from the last day of examinations to commencement gives the graduates more time in which to prepare for Graduation Day. The changes leaves three days in which no senior events except rehearsals will be planned.

The Senior Ball will take place Saturday evening, June 8.

Time for Movies To be Set Aside

Second semester will feature an audio-visual hour on campus.

One afternoon will be set aside during which classes are sparsely scheduled. During this afternoon, students will be free to attend movies which will be selected for their entertainment as well as cultural and educational benefit.

Congratulations to Mary Ellen Evans McCarthy and Thomas McCarthy on their recent marriage. We all wish them much happiness and the best of luck for the future.



Miss Vera D. Denty

Students To Hear Noted Lecturer

The students of Rosary Hill will have the honor of hearing Miss Vera D. Denty, noted lecturer, at an assembly on March 7. Miss Denty is a member of the British Psychological Association and the American Catholic Psychological Association. She received her B.A. degree with honors in psychology, her graduate degree in child psychology, and completed her psychoanalytical training at the London University.

Miss Denty is currently conducting a Psychology Course for parishioners in one of London's leading parishes, training an ever-increasing number of students in child development. She is available for regular consultation at the offices of two doctors in addition to caring for her own child and adult patients.

While at Rosary Hill, Miss Denty will speak either on Marriage or Psychological Aids to Study. She will remain on campus during the entire day in order to be available to the students.

Last year Miss Denty lectured at many Catholic colleges including Notre Dame, LeMoyné, Marymount and Fordham. She has received enthusiastic endorsements from many Catholic educators — Rev. Joseph Christie, S.J., a noted British broadcaster and Louis de Wohl, the author of *The Quiet Light*, St. Ignatius Loyola and St. Francis Xavier.



Mary Manzella poses with Canisius students who are conducting the current campaign for Queen City Queen of 1957.

Queen Candidates Kept "On-the-go"

Mary Manzella, Rosary Hill's candidate for the Queen City Tournament, has a busy schedule to keep during the coming weeks.

To date, Mary has attended a luncheon, a Canisius Little Theatre play, a rally and all basketball games. On Dec. 8 she was interviewed by radio sports announcer Bill Mazur.

The three candidates, Maureen Cavan from Canisius nursing school, Dottie Ryan from D'Youville, and Mary are introduced before the start of each game.

Ballots for queen are given to all who attend games and are deposited in designated boxes.

Queen of the tournament will be chosen at the last game and crowned by Alice Battha, Queen City Queen of 1956.

Rochester University Is Host To Congress

Problems and progress of Student Government organizations were discussed at the Regional Convention of NSA on Dec. 7, 8, and 9.

The convention was held at the University of Rochester and discussions centered around the theme "Toward A Better Student Government."

Senior delegate Carol Kobza, and junior delegate Caroline Ernst attended the convention.

Isabelle Mercer and Jean Arns were also present.

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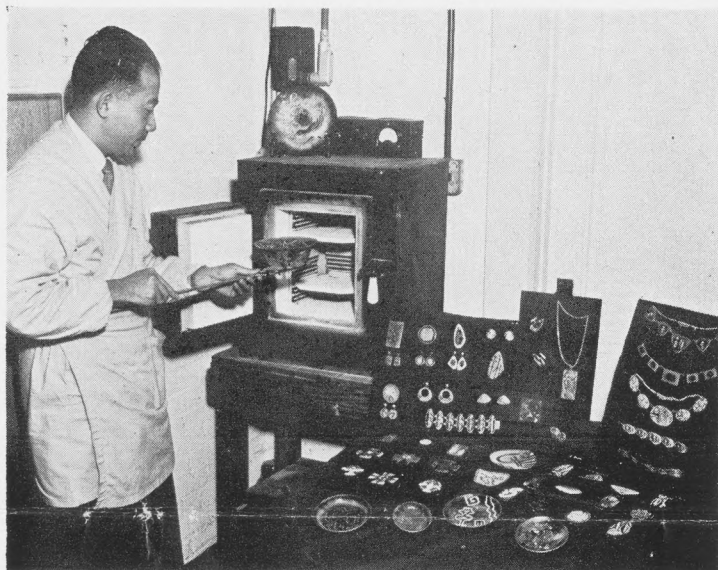
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 31	Assembly: Dean of Students
February 7	Assembly: Dean of Studies
February 14	National Brotherhood Week Assembly: Mr. Richard Pattee
February 21	Carnival Nite
February 24	CURA Concert
February 28	Assembly: Catholic Book Week Discussion
March 5	Travel slides on European tours
March 7	Assembly: Miss Vera D. Denty
March 9	Scholarship examinations for high school seniors
March 14	Assembly: Vocation Week
March 21	Assembly: Dean of Students
March 28	Assembly: Musical Presentation

Publication Features Creations



Mr. James Kuo with a display of jewelry and metalcraft which is currently on display in Marian Library.

A new book published by Sheed and Ward entitled *Contemporary Church Art* by Anton Henze features pictures of the metalcraft of Mr. James Kuo, art professor at Rosary Hill.

Some of the Jewelry and metalcraft illustrated in the book has been on exhibition in Marian Library where it will be displayed until Jan. 4. The exhibit includes earrings, pins,

bracelets, necklaces, religious pins, cufflinks, tie clasps, and metal and enamel ash trays.

Many of these articles are made of sterling silver. Designs on the jewelry are of enameling or cloisonné work.

Mr. Kuo appeared on Helen Neville's TV program, Monday, December 3. At this time he gave a demonstration of his metalcraft technique.

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Hillarities

By DEA McKENNA

Mid the slush and mush of these past term papery weeks, RH'ers have been working overtime in the hillarious department to keep spirits gay—Ergo . . .



Mountains:

A quiet, dull afternoon at the Grosvenor Library, turned out to be an exciting one for Dorothy Gates when a purse snatcher made off with her shoulder strap filing cabinet. A chase proved futile and the police were called in to question the poor victim. After all this, Dorothy's remark was, "Gee, it feels good to be a celebrity for a day." The moral of the story, ladies, is, "Retherp gnov soum erkled tsgei" (Trans.—find a better way of becoming a celebrity!)

A Convert for South Buffalo. Anne McCoy thinks living in the dorm is great but that there's nothing like South Buffalo snow to keep one from getting to classes — (Cheer up Anne, maybe the bridge between the dorm and the library will fall apart one of these days.)

Molehills:

"Blueprint for Blubber" is the alleged title of Janet Robinson's term paper on *Moby Dick*. Here's hoping your mark won't be quite as messy.

Student to English professor
Student: Wanna hear a couple dillies?
Professor: Sure.
Student: Dilly, dilly.

There'll be quite a variety in dress at the Senior Christmas Cotillion — Martha Jane Buchheit told the junior class to come in anything that's comfortable — Oh well, kilts and knee sox aren't too hard to look at.

When Mr. Herman asked Estelle Palmer in speech class why she didn't do too well on the test but gave such a tremendous speech, her reply of "It wasn't easy, Mr. Herman," really brought the house down.

Poem by our literary genius Miss Fruss Trated:
The therbig frail all burbled was
methinks a derry do.
But nay the flichend crelly fuzz
Reminded me of you.

We sure are glad that Annajean Zurek's boyfriend is out of the navy at last. She's been keeping us posted daily on how long he had to go since — "two years and three hundred and sixty-four days."



On the Level:

Congratulations . . .

To our seniors for talking the mayor into having a Christmas tree in Kleinhans this year after a two-year absence . . . It would make one think they're planning an unforgettable dance for us Dec. 30! . . . To Kath McCarthy and Anne-marie McGarry for RH's smiling snowman . . . To the class of '58 for their wonderful junior prom. Congrats too, to her majesty Joan Collins—Queen of the prom.

Subversive:

Two seniors writing a satire on Chaucer's "Canterbury Tales" — the "Cranberry Chronicles." . . . A freshman trying for an "A" in English. On the back of the faculty place card in the cafeteria, she has inscribed—

"Good morning, Mr. Masterson"
"Good afternoon, Mr. Masterson"
"Good evening, Mr. Masterson"

. . . Judy Ryan getting a head start on everyone—she already has her skates in her locker waiting for the lake to freeze.

Hill-arities wishes you a Merry Christmas and a happy holiday season. Let us join together in wishing a Happy Birthday to the Prince of Peace.

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Gonzaga Club Plans Town Casino Event

Plans for a night at the Town Casino are presently being considered by the Gonzaga Club. If definitely set, the event will take place after the first of the year.

The club wishes to sponsor this type of event again because of the wonderful success the event met with last year.

Administration

Rosary Hill will be recommended for membership in the Association of American Colleges when the Association holds its annual meeting January 8-10 in Philadelphia, Pa.

Sister M. Angela, O. S. F., will attend the meeting, during which the theme "Education of Free Men in a Free Society for a Free World" will be discussed.

Sister M. Angela and Sister M. Cuthbert, O. S. F., also represented the College at the annual meeting of the New York State Association of Colleges and Universities at Queen's College, Flushing, Long Island, Dec. 6-7.

Sister Angela reported that Rosary Hill was officially read in as a member of the Middle States Association during the meeting of the Association she attended in Atlantic City in November.

Mrs. Zurek Chairs Mothers Club Party

A card party will be sponsored by the Mothers Club on Friday, Jan. 18.

Chairman for the event is Mrs. Joseph A. Zurek assisted by co-chairmen Mrs. Francis J. Reagan and Mrs. Samuel Palisano. The card party will take place in Marian Library.

President, Mrs. Kenneth B. Leitten, wishes to thank all who attended and gave their support to the pops concert sponsored by the Mothers Club. Mrs. William H. Formhals was chairman of the event.

Book Club Continues Interesting Programs

The Aquinas Book Club will present a discussion during the assembly of Feb. 28. This discussion will be held in commemoration of Catholic Book Week. The group participating in the discussion will consist of a nun, a priest, a lay woman, and a college student. They will discuss two books of current interest, *The Nun's Story* and *A Right to be Merry*.

Up to date, the main project of the Book Club has been discussing articles for publication in the "Alpenstock".

Another project of the club is that of informing students of radio programs which are artistically best in entertainment. The club has a subscription to the "C.B.C. Times" available in the library.

Race Discrimination Discussed by Panel

A panel discussion entitled "Discrimination and the Negro" was conducted in the social room on Thursday, Nov. 29. Mr. Edward J. Pfeiffer, Jr. was moderator of the panel which was sponsored by the Third Order.

The members of the panel were all officers of the De Porres Club which has had much experience in inter-racial discussions. They included Mrs. John Lynch, Mrs. Robert Shay, Mr. Herbert Stederman and Mr. Richard Blue.

Club Gives Proceeds To Southern Mission

Proceeds from the Christmas cookie sale will be distributed by Missiology members. The profit will be given to a negro mission conducted by our Franciscan Sisters in South Carolina.

At the recent NFCCS Workshop on Dec. 9, Missiology members participated in a panel on religion. Jo Ann Fish spoke on the Lutheran religion. The material for her speech was compiled by the Missiology group.

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